

Suzanne Letso, M.A., BCBA
Connecticut Center for Child Development
Milford, CT

March 16, 2015

Re: In support of SB 1089, Sections 23-29

Dear Public Health Committee:

Thank you for including language regarding licensure of Behavior Analysts in SB 1089. Licensure is much needed and long overdue.

Licensure of Behavior Analysts and Assistant Behavior Analysts will help ensure that consumers of Applied Behavior Analytic (ABA) interventions receive services from qualified practitioners who have the education and experience to competently do so. Even though there is some other existing legislation already on the books in Connecticut, it is inadequate to protect children, families, school districts, and employers of those who provide ABA services. While we have made great strides over the last 15 – 20 years, there are still many people who “hang a shingle” but who have little or no formal training or supervised experience providing these services in our state. While I know that most of these people are well meaning, and even often well trained in another discipline, that actually can make it doubly difficult for a layperson or agency to determine who is reasonably qualified to provide these services. And, in the even that something goes wrong, there is no venue for taking action against someone working in this field unless and until we have Connecticut Licensed Behavior Analysts.

In addition, if this legislation is enacted, then DDS/DSS could utilize this credential to identify service providers, and could also be applied to Medicaid Regulations instead of the convoluted, non-functional current regulations that red-line out most BCBA’s in the state as currently written.

I hope you will support this important legislation. It has the power to help thousands of children and families across our state for years to come.

Yours truly,

Suzanne Letso, M.A., BCBA, NYS Licensed Behavior Analyst, CEO
Parent of a son with developmental disabilities and a resident of Newtown